computer and video games

ULTIMATE Virtual Pets HANDBOOK

COMPU KITTY
Giga Pet
MODE
EATEX

Introduction

Last year it was Buzz Lightyear dolls. This year the number one Christmas toy is set to be the 'virtual pet', a range of electronic artificial lifeforms that live out their lives on LCD displays mounted on plastic key fobs, and eat, sleep, play and grow, just like a real pet – as long as you take good care of them.

The idea of computerised pets isn't a new one. In 1985, Activision released Little Computer People, which introduced Commodore 64 owners to a little guy who lived in an on-screen house with his pet dog. More recently Mindscape revived the idea for Dogz and Catz, two similar products that gave a fluffy animal a good home inside PC monitors worldwide.

Fresh Eggs

The current craze for the carry-anywhere virtual pet was started by a Japanese housewife, Aki Maita, who longed for a pet that was easy to look after. She worked out a design for an electronic toy pet and presented it to the Japanese toy corporation, Bandai, which took it on board and spent two years researching the idea.

The finished item was called *Tamagotchi* ('egg watch' in Japanese – Tamago means egg) and within months of its release in Japan it had become a nationwide craze. The toys were a hit with kids, but adults were also hooked and several major Japanese corporations had to set up *Tamagotchi* creches so that their staff could concentrate on their work without having to worry about feeding their virtual pet. Demand was massively outstripping supply, with the result that a black market in *Tamagotchis* developed, and there were reports of *Tamagotchis* being stolen to order.

The Clones

It wasn't long before other toy companies got wind of the *Tamagotchi* phenomenon and started working on pocket pets of their own. Some of the larger manufacturers tried to better the *Tamagotchi* with better graphics and more activities. Others were happy just to ride the bandwagon and produce low-grade knock-offs that filled the shelves when the real thing was sold out. By Easter, Bandai had sold approximately three million of the official *Tamagotchis* in Japan and the time had come for the creatures to migrate, first to America, then on to Europe.

Tams in Tommyland

By the time *Tamagotchi* arrived in Britain, advance orders were already in the thousands. Early on the morning of May 8th queues of wannabe *Tamagotchi* parents formed outside the Brent Cross branch of Toys 'R' Us in London, the first store to receive a supply of UK *Tamagotchis*. The following Saturday, the toys were released nationwide, and the British *Tamagotchi* invasion had begun.

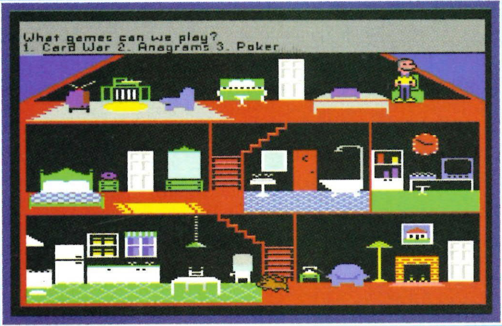
Reactions to the new craze were mixed. Cautious animal protection groups voiced concerns that virtual pets gave children the idea that animals were disposable, but Hitch-hiker's Guide To The Galaxy author Douglas Adams declared that the creation of such artificial life was more exciting than the discovery of life on Mars.

Heavy Petting

Equally fascinated are the new breed of virtual pet collectors, who strive to acquire one of every different model. Canny Bandai have catered to the collectors' craving by producing several different models of *Tamagotchi* in a variety of colour combinations, and there is talk of some *Tamagotchis* taking the wrong route through the production line and leaving the factory in non-standard livery, making them even more collectable. Some of the most sought-after, command high price tags too. The tale is told of a pure white *Tamagotchi*, one of the first four models to be produced at the original factory in China, which recently changed hands for £250. Not bad for a £10 investment!

But Remember...

...A virtual pet is for life, not for making easy money. To help you find the electronic soulmate that's going to share YOUR life we've produced this guide to the different species that you'll find in the shops on the run-up to Christmas. Some are pedigree breeds, while others have a bit of mongrel in them, but all of them need a good home. Turn over, and enter the kennels of the CVG Virtual Pet Pound.



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What games can we play?
1. Card War 2. Anagrams 3. Poker
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The forerunner to *Tamagotchi* was Activision's *Little Computer People* – every one was different!

Web Page

There are dozens of virtual pet sites on the Web, most set up by fans and collectors, and some by malcontents who can't stand 'em!

Tamagotchis

There are currently 18 different styles of *Tamagotchi* on the market – and almost 100 *Tamagotchi* clones!

££££££££
£10.99

Tamagotchi

When it comes to virtual pets, *Tamagotchi* is definitely where it's at. Buy and believe! Bandai claim that the silver ones are rare.

SPECIAL FEATURES

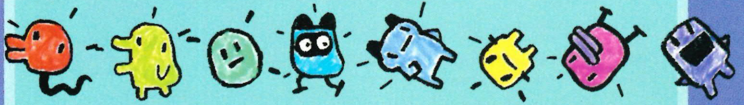
Electronic evolution, cheats and hidden stuff!

name your pet? .... no

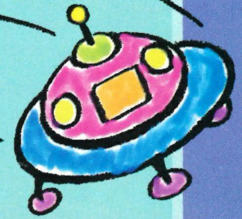
CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★★★☆
GAMES	★★★★☆
CUTE POWER	★★★★☆
FUN POWER	★★★★★
overall	★★★★★

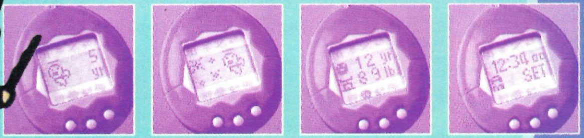
© BANDAI

Finally we come to the original virtual pet - and somehow, still the best. Next to the *Giga Pets* the *Tamagotchi* looks crude, but there's more to a virtual pet than its looks. Whereas the *Giga Pets* are animals that simply get bigger, *Tamagotchi* starts as an amorphous alien blob that actually evolves. There are several forms that a *Tamagotchi* can eventually assume, all with different personalities which reflect how you've treated it in the past. Bandai have even programmed secret bits into *Tamagotchi*, so you can breed a hidden character!



The other thing that makes *Tamagotchi* better than the other pets is the simple fact that they are the original virtual pet and that makes them more collectable. Get one of these and you're part of *Tamagotchi* Culture, joining millions of fans (10 million by the end of the year, Bandai reckon) around the world. Check out the numerous fan sites on the Internet where they discuss *Tamagotchi* care and give hints and collecting information. Even CVG has its regular *Tamagotchi* Farm feature.





The competition is good but nothing beats the style and feel of the original.

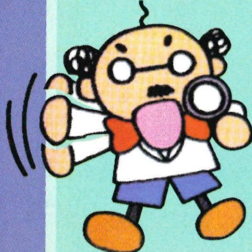
VERDICT

Tamagotchi Craze

And There's More...!

The *Tamagotchis* that are currently in the shops are the second generation P2 models, and there are more to come. Imminent new versions include *Sea Life Tamagotchi* and *Animals of the Forest Tamagotchi.* Next year we can expect to see *Angelgotchis* and *Digital Monsters*, which can be connected together so that they do battle.

But the *Tamagotchi* craze is spreading beyond keyring-sized pets. All the *Tamagotchi* breeds have been turned into cuddly toys which will be released in this country by Beanstalk, which will also be releasing *Tamagotchi* T-shirts, a board game and even chocolates. There are also two *Tamagotchi* titles aimed at PC owners. *Tamagotchi: Inside The Egg* is a screensaver pack which should be in your shops right now, and Bandai is currently working with 7th Level to produce an extended PC CD-ROM version of *Tamagotchi* for release next March.



The most amazing *Tamagotchi* yet is *Tamapitchi*, a creature that inhabits the display of a mobile phone and which can be transmitted from one phone to another. Don't expect to see it for a while though. Britain's mobile phone networks haven't got what it takes to support this kind of data transfer, and Bandai have to wait until they're upgraded before *Tamapitchi* can be unleashed onto the nation's airwaves!

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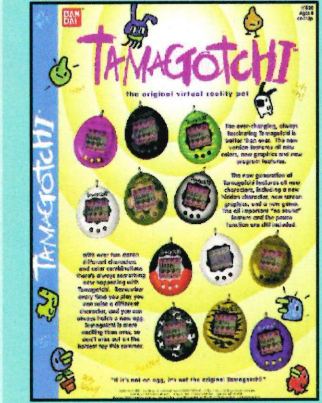
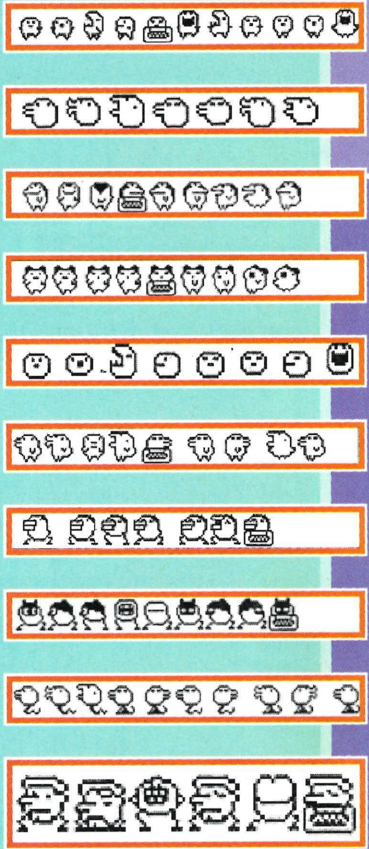


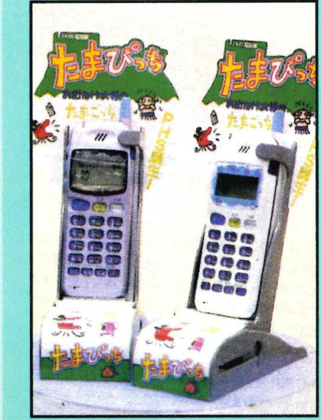
The ever-changing, always fascinating Tamagotchi is better than ever. The new version features all new colors, new graphics and new program features.

The new generation of Tamagotchi features all new characters, including a new hidden character, new screen graphics, and a new game. The all important "no sound" feature and the pause function are still included.

With over two dozen different characters and color combinations there's always something new happening with Tamagotchi. Remember every time you play you can raise a different character, and you can always hatch a new egg. Tamagotchi is more exciting than ever, so don't miss out on the hottest toy this summer.

"If it's not an egg, it's not the original Tamagotchi"

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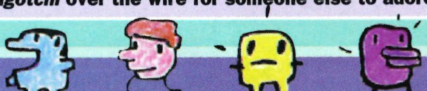
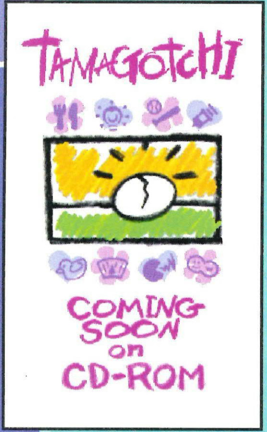
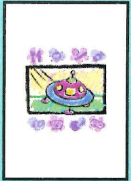
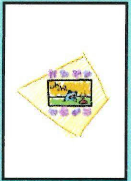
The *Tamapitchi* mobile phones. It's possible to send your *Tamagotchi* over the wire for someone else to adore!

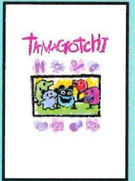


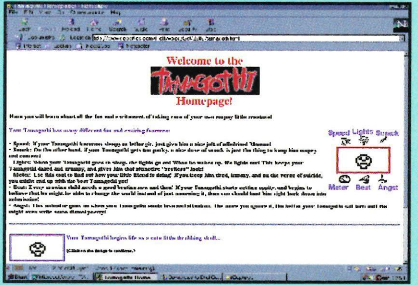
Tamagotchi Craze


TAMAGOTCHI
COMING SOON on CD-ROM





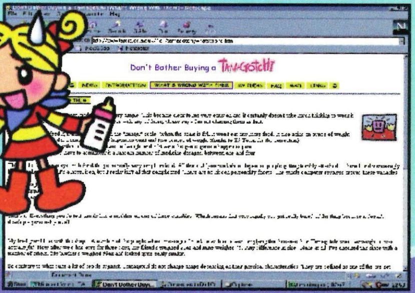

TAMAGOTCHI



Welcome to the TAMAGOTCHI Homepage!

Speed
Lights
Snack
Meter
Beat
Angst

***Tamagotchi* is coming to a PC near you SOON! Not quite so portable as the key-holder original though. Hmm...**



Don't Bother Buying a TAMAGOTCHI

NEWS
INTRODUCTION
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM
FAQ
LINKS

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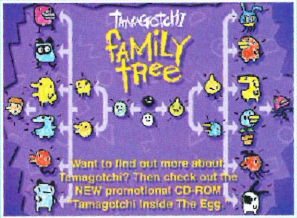
てんしっちのたまごっち と あそぶほん
たまごっち 育児読本
「たまごっち」の研究
たまごっち。
GAME BOY
たまごっち
BANDAI
GAME BOY
GAME BOY pocket
SELECT START
B
A

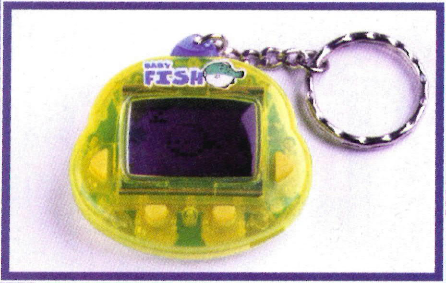
森で発見!! たまごっち
6月末発売予定　各1,980円予定
海で発見!! たまごっち
6月末発売予定　各1,980円予定

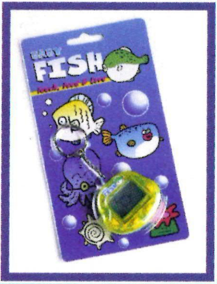

TAMAGOTCHI
family tree

Want to find out more about Tamagotchi? Then check out the NEW promotional CD-ROM "Tamagotchi Inside The Egg."

££££££££
£9.99

Baby Fish/Dog/Dino/Chicken





Baby Fish, *Choco Dog*, *Baby Chick* and *Baby Dinosaur*. If they were real pets your carpet would be in a right state.

SPECIAL FEATURES

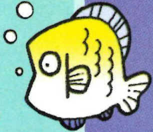
Some strange button arrangements, lots of poo

name your pet? .... no

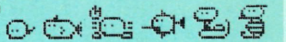
CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★★☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★★★☆☆
FUN POWER	★★★☆☆
overall	★★★☆☆

These little fellas are most often found at your local market or cheap tat shop (the place that sells incense cones and breast-shaped chocolates). Though they come in assorted species and varied packaging they all appear to use the same core program and hence have the same features.

As far as those features go there's not much that's radically different. The feeding, sleeping, healing and poop-removing options are the same as usual. There's a dice game and the Left/Right game is back to keep your pet's pecker up. More unusual is the heater which you can use to revive a sick pet that isn't responding to any other treatments. Also, the 'educate' button teaches the creature to read - which is a lot more pleasant than smacking it with a stick, as with some of the other VPs.



Though none of this series make particularly exciting pets, they are easier to manage than some of the others we tried out. They don't get stroppy if you don't do what they want, though they do demand frequent attention, partly on account of their active bowels and partly because they tend to keel over without much warning. They're probably not for you if you're going to have to take yours into school, or if you have an evil bo



Nevertheless, we found the big, clear graphics and cool cases made the *Baby*-whatevers more fun to play with than, say, the *8-in-1*s or *Big Boy*. Our own favourite is *Chocodog*, who not only has the best name, but also comes in a cool purple, cloud-shaped case and looks strangely cute in an Eastern European cartoon sort of way.

Friendly, but needy. One of the cuter breeds though.

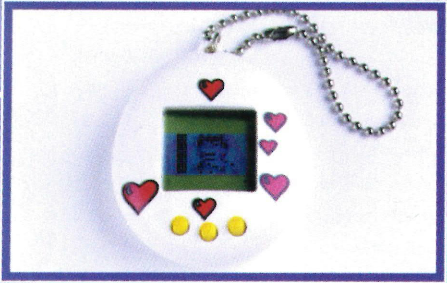
BABY FISH

VERDICT

££££££££

£9.99

Big Boy



BIG BOY
love me!

In the end it all got a bit scary and we felt, for the sake of humanity, it was safest to leave this one well alone.

SPECIAL FEATURES

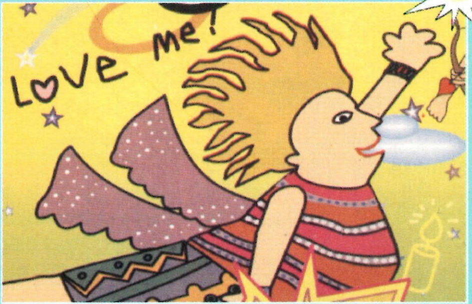
Some incomprehensible displays

name your pet? .... no*

CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★☆☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★☆☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★★☆☆☆
overall	★★☆☆☆

* just call him 'Damian'

B*ig Boy* really IS a big boy. By the time he was a year old he already weighed in at a hefty 25kg (around 4 stone!). That and the fact that he was born from some kind of plant pod brings to mind certain science fiction movies in which unworldly children with sinister personalities command dark powers. Indeed, even at this early age *Big Boy* showed every sign of developing into some kind of devil-spawn, throwing strops whenever he lost at the hypnotic 'Catch The Butterfly' game and becoming visibly enraged by our ineptitude at the strange chin-ups exercise. We couldn't even beat the happiness into him with the 'Education' option.

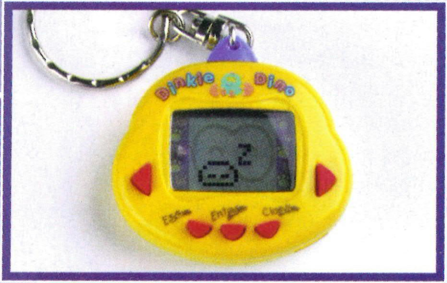


The world's first electronic problem child.

VERDICT

£9.99

Dinkie Dino



Dinkie Dino

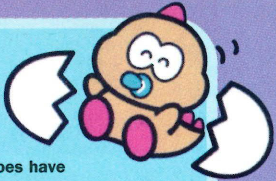
Check out your local Tandy for *Dinkie Dinos*. They come in four different colours

SPECIAL FEATURES

Two navigation buttons make it easier to select an action, good keyring

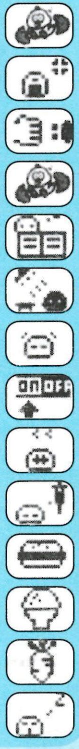
name your pet? .... no

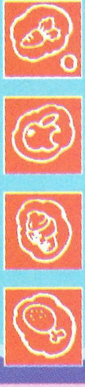
CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★★☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★★★☆☆
FUN POWER	★★★★☆
overall	★★★☆☆

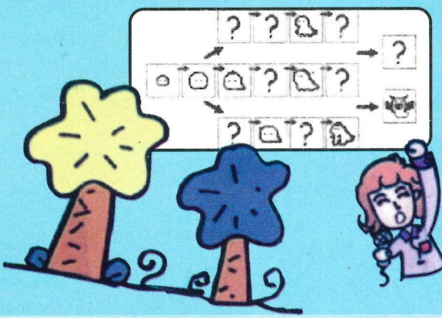


Apparently, *Dinkie Dino* is one of the few virtual pets that collectors recognise as 'almost as good as *Tamagotchi*'. In terms of features it doesn't have that much over its less respected rivals, but it does have the advantage of looking and playing slicker and being better made. So, for example, all the buttons are logically laid out and big, clear graphics make it easy to work out what your pet wants.

The additional gameplay features include things like being able to feed your dino six different types of food, all with different nutritional value, giving him books to read to boost his brain and keeping him at just the right temperature by judicious use of air-conditioning. The single game is a decent version of 'Stone, Paper, Scissors' (one of the better Virtual Pet games), which you have to let him win to keep him happy. All in all, *Dinkie Dino* is nicely presented, but it's not as good as one of the *Nano* or *Giga* series, or the original *Tamagotchi*.





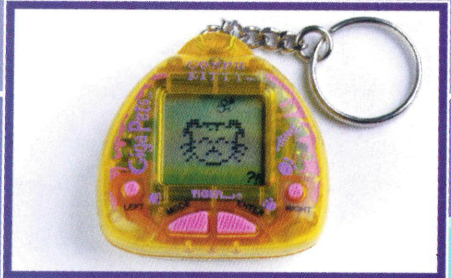


Fun to play and easy to get along with. A slightly classier version of the *Baby* Pets.

VERDICT

££££££££
£13.99 -
£13.99

Giga Pets



TIGER
Giga Pets
Your Virtual Pet

Shop around for your *Giga Pet*. We got our *Compu Kitty* from Virgin for £9.99, while *Microchimp* cost £12.99 at Hamleys.

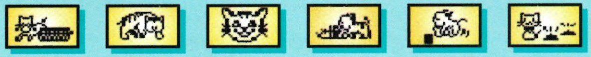
SPECIAL FEATURES

Pet training sessions

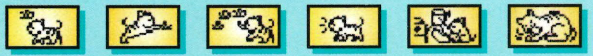
name your pet? .... yes

CASE DESIGN	★★★★☆
GRAPHICS	★★★★☆
GAMES	★★★☆☆
CUTE POWER	★★★★☆
FUN POWER	★★★☆☆
overall	★★★★☆

Tiger are quite a big name in electronic toys, so it came as no surprise to find that their take on the Virtual Pet phenomenon is one of the better efforts. *Giga Pets* come in six different flavours. There's *Digital Doggie*, *Baby T-Rex*, *Virtual Alien*, *Bit Critter*, and the two we tested, *Microchimp* and *Compu Kitty*. Both are impressive graphically, with big, clear screens showing big, detailed characters, which are almost but not quite as cute as the *Nano Pals*. The animation is pretty good too. For example, when you wash the cat you get to see it licking itself clean. Lesser VPs would fob you off with a boring picture of a steaming bath.



The *Giga Pets*' activities are more varied than usual, and they are unique in so far as you can teach them tricks. Each animal comes with a selection of four special actions - jumping, swinging, clapping and running in the *Microchimp*'s case - which it will do on command, as long as you've gone through a training process and rewarded the animal when it has done well. The games are both reaction tests, but they're pleasingly different from the norm. *Microchimp* has to juggle a ball, while *Compu Kitty* tries to catch butterflies on the left and right of the screen. Simple, but more entertaining than most.



The only thing that lets the *Giga Pets* down slightly is the fact that, aside from getting bigger or fatter, they don't change much as they get older. You do get a score that rates the quality of your pet care, but surely the idea of a virtual pet is to see the pet progress, not your own score.

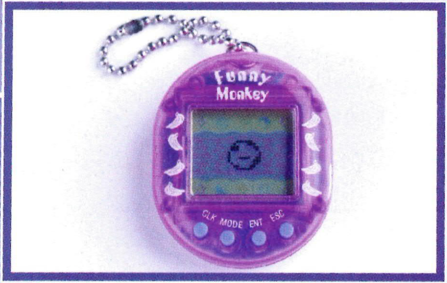
Some nice ideas here, but we didn't think they were quite as cuddly as the *Nano Pals*.

VERDICT

££££££££

£9.99

Funny Monkey



ELECTRONIC PETS

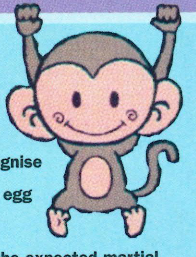
***Funny Monkey* is just one of the VPs being sold under an 'Electronic Pets' label.**

SPECIAL FEATURES

Weightlifting and 'Risky Walk' activities; no sound control!

name your pet? .... no

CASE DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
GRAPHICS	★☆☆☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★☆☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★★☆☆☆
overall	★★☆☆☆



F*unny Monkey* has one of the best Virtual Pet 'birth' sequences we've seen. Fans of the 80's kung fu comedy show Monkey will instantly recognise the scene of a volcano spewing forth an egg from which the monkey hatches. Unfortunately, the expected martial arts and magical mystery were not forthcoming, and *Funny Monkey* turned out to be Fairly Ordinary Monkey. As far as looks go, this one is a total dud, especially compared to the *Microchimp Gigapet*, but that's not to say he's totally without his points of interest. The Catch-The-Heart reaction game is more entertaining than the completely random entertainment offered elsewhere, and *Funny Monkey* also has the novelty of a weight-lifting activity. We also liked the option to send him out for an hour's walk - with the risk of him not coming back if he left in a sour mood.

ELECTRONIC PETS

Reasonable, but if monkeys are your thing the *Microchimp* is better.

VERDICT

£13.99

Nano Pals

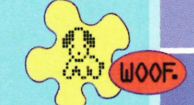
C-can not... re-resist! *Nano Pals*... t-too c-cute! AIEEEEEEEE!

SPECIAL FEATURES

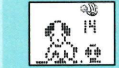
That feel of quality

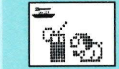
name your pet? .... *yes*

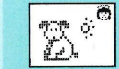
CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★★★★
GAMES	★★★★☆
CUTE POWER	★★★★★
FUN POWER	★★★★☆
overall	★★★★☆

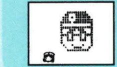


Playmates' *Nano Pals* aren't cheap, but they're the best *Tamagotchi* alternatives that we've seen. There are three different pets in the range, a *Nano Baby, Nano Puppy* and a *Nano Kitty.* We could only get hold of the baby and the puppy but we were instantly impressed by what we found. They both look excellent - clear icons and wonderful character displays and animation. The puppy is adorable when it's born, shuffling through a house (yes, a house - you can see doors and stairs scrolling past in the background) with a tiny body and an oversized head, and the baby looks so cute that once you pick up him or her (the gender is decided randomly at birth) it's hard to put them down. The other thing we particularly liked about the *Nanos* is that they each give you two smart games to entertain your pet with. The baby gets a good 'stone-paper-scissors' variation, which it somehow gets better at with practice, and the puppy plays a reaction game in which you have to press left or right when he's holding his paw in that direction. Better than those, though, is a sort of racing game in which you have to press the left or right button as fast as you can to get your pet to a target before a timer runs out. The puppy chases a ball, and the baby has to crawl to a winning post. The quality of construction is good, and you also get a detailed manual, which makes a pleasant change from some of the madly translated instruction sheets that come with the cheaper pets.









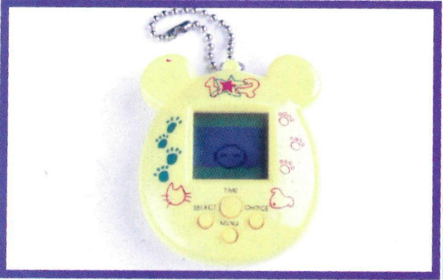
You're paying more, but the extra touches put the *Nano Pals* streets ahead of the cheap knock-offs.

VERDICT

££££££££

£9.99

Nekotcha



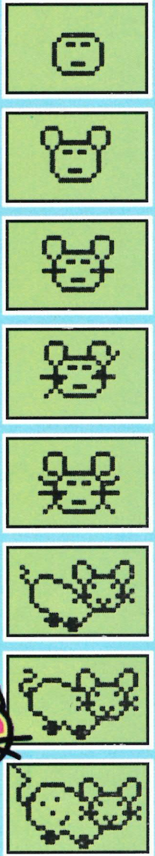
***Nekotcha* is the only virtual pet with funny ears on the case. Unfortunately, they don't make it any more amusing.**

SPECIAL FEATURES

Full life-cycle includes dating, marriage and birth of new *Nekotcha* – eventually.

name your pet? .... no

CASE DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★☆☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★☆☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★☆☆☆☆
overall	★★☆☆☆



The fact that the case is inscribed 1-2 and shows a picture of a cat and a dog suggests that *Nekotcha* comes in feline and canine variations. We could only find the cat version, though, and what a tedious cat it turned out to be.

As a kitten, *Nekotcha* resembles a Smartie with eyes, but keep feeding it milk and in a day or two, a small simplistic cat face appears on the small, blurry, low-resolution screen. Even at this stage *Nekotcha* doesn't do much apart from drink more milk and sleep a lot, which, of course, is all you'd expect from a cat, but just because it's realistic doesn't make it any more fun. There are options to play three different games with *Nekotcha*, exercise it and even send it out on 'dates' so that it eventually spawns a new *Nekotcha*, but these are only available in the later stages of development. Impetuous souls that we are, we just couldn't be bothered to wait that long.

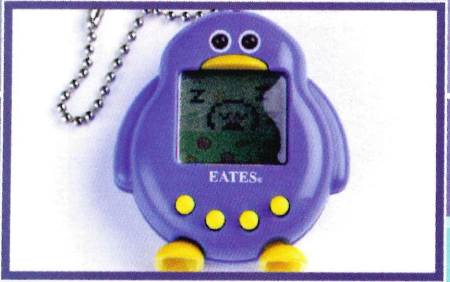
Some nice ideas but you have to go through days of tedium to get to them.

VERDICT

NEKOTCHA™

££££££££
£9.99

Pocket Penguin



This one looks as if it would come to life in the night and kill your family. Whatever you do, don't look into those eyes!

SPECIAL FEATURES

Ill-advised power-saving mode that deactivates display after ten minutes. Intimidating appearance

name your pet? .... no

CASE DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
GRAPHICS	★☆☆☆☆
GAMES	★☆☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★☆☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★☆☆☆☆
overall	★☆☆☆☆

P*ocket Penguin* has the unique distinction of being shaped like its subject (only bluer), and above its LCD belly are two staring red LED eyes that flash when it wants attention. This gives *Pocket Penguin* the appearance of some kind of psycho toy robot - and its character fits that description too. When it's born it spends a few days as a tiny black blob that always looks as if it's half-submerged beneath the Antarctic tundra. At this point there's not a great deal you can do with it except feed it, and even then it's hard to get any kind of positive reaction out of it. There is a game in which you have to place the penguin underneath one of three chutes in the hope that a fish will slide into its gaping gob, but this turns out to be very frustrating and tedious. In fact, it didn't take long for us to get completely fed up with this one. Definitely not cute, and not much fun either.

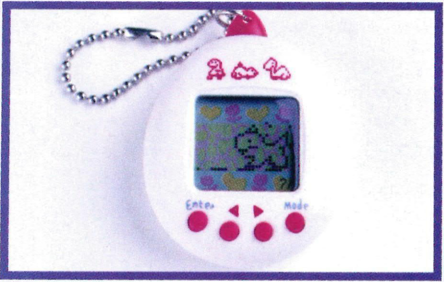
Another Virtual Pet that isn't so much entertaining as... well... unnerving, really.

VERDICT

Pocket Penguin

££££££££
£13.99

Tekotche



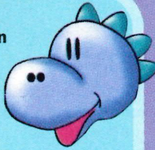
The name's almost as cool as *Tamagotchi*, but the overall concept isn't as much fun. Good to pose around with, maybe.

SPECIAL FEATURES

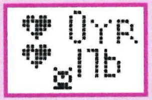
Intriguing similarities to a competing brand of Virtual Pet.

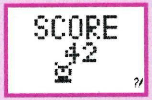
name your pet? .... **no**

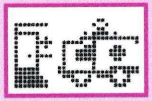
CASE DESIGN	★★★☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★☆☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★★★☆☆
FUN POWER	★★★☆☆
overall	★★★☆☆

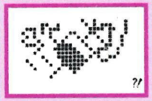


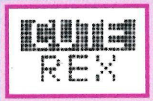
T*ekotche* is a dinosaur virtual pet which has a lot in common with the *Nano Pals*. In fact, the similarities are so striking that we originally thought *Tekotche* must be the Japanese name for *Nano Pal* until we checked the *Nano Pals* product range and found there weren't any dinosaurs in it. It has exactly the same range of options with exactly the same screen layouts and it even has exactly the same Press The Buttons As Fast As You Can chase game. But after playing *Tekotche* for a while the differences start to show. The *Nano Pal* graphics are slick and cute, but *Tekotche*'s are relatively simplistic and lumpy, and whereas the *Nano Pals* have two games, *Tekotche* only has one. Aside from his looks, though, *Tekotche* isn't a bad pet. Ours went stroppy after a couple of days, but then considering the bitter blow life has dealt him regarding his ugly mug, we kind of thought he had every right to be fed up.

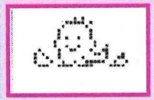


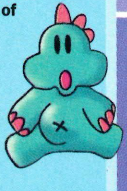


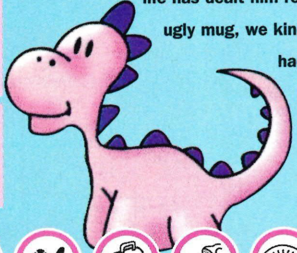












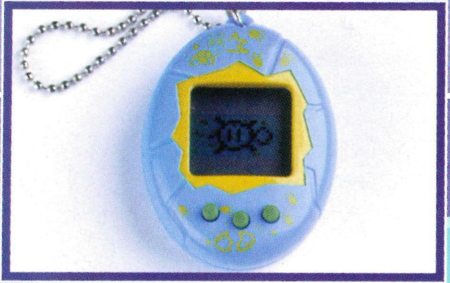
VERDICT

The *Nano Pals*' cheaper, less attractive cousin.

TEKOTCHE

££££££££
£9.99

Pocket Turtle



A turtle in your pocket. Obviously someone's idea of having a good time – but not ours.

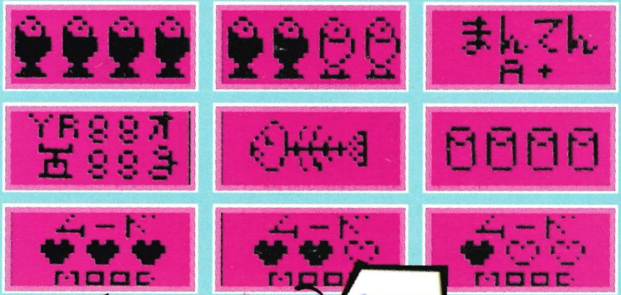
SPECIAL FEATURES

Looks a bit like a *Tamagotchi* (when it's switched off)

name your pet? .... no

CASE DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
GRAPHICS	★☆☆☆☆
GAMES	★☆☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★☆☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★☆☆☆☆
overall	★☆☆☆☆

No relation to *Pocket Penguin*, *Pocket Turtle*'s cracked-egg case makes it look more like a *Tamagotchi*, but there the similarity ends. Unlike *Tamagotchi*, *Pocket Turtle* is a tedious little squirt, ugly even as a baby and with very little potential for personal growth. The graphics depicting *Turtle* himself are awfully basic and the features offered are no less imaginative - feed him fish, scrape up his dung, inject him or play a dismal random left-or-right ball game. Our hopes were raised by the School option illustrated in the instructions with simple maths questions. The fun we could have had helping *Turtle* work out the sum of seven and nine, but no. All you get are the same two sums over and over which are answered automatically. The whole thing is made even less enticing by the unresponsive buttons and the Japanese text on some of the options screens.



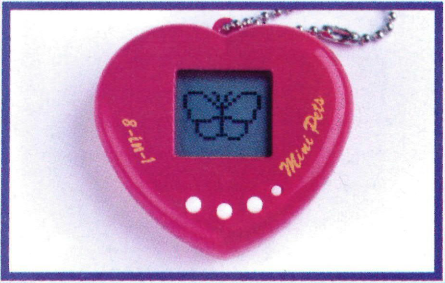
VERDICT

Just like a real-life ugly, curmudgeonly reptile.

££££££££

£13.99

8-in-1 Mini Pets



Take Me Home!
8 in 1
PETS PARK

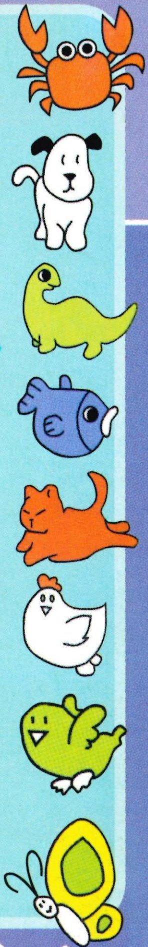
The *8-in-1*s are being imported and repackaged under the names *Cyber Tribe Pets* and *Pet Park*.

SPECIAL FEATURES

'Musical' 'games'

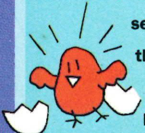
name your pet? .... no

CASE DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
GRAPHICS	★★☆☆☆
GAMES	★★☆☆☆
CUTE POWER	★★☆☆☆
FUN POWER	★★☆☆☆
overall	★★☆☆☆



At £14, the *8-in-1*s are a bit more expensive than other virtual pets, but then, as the name suggests, the extra few quid buys you a whole menagerie of eight creatures to nurture. So you get a dinosaur, a chicken, a dove, a shark (that looks exactly like a regular fish), a cat, a butterfly, a crab and a dog. The animal graphics are passable but basic, and we were disappointed to see that whenever you select an activity your fluffy charge is always represented by a generic, *PacMan*-like blob. Something to do with memory constraints, perhaps.

As well as the usual feed, clean and medicate options, there's the standard 'Guess Which Way I'm Going To Look' thing (tedious in the extreme) and a 'Guess What The Dice Roll Will Be' game (not too bad). The *8-in-1*s also have the unique feature of letting you perk up your pet by playing it a tune or 'dancing' with it. The playlist is from 'The Greatest Digital Watch Tunes Album Ever', so you get snatches from such beepalong hits as Mary Had A Little Lamb, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, and I Come From Alabama (With A Banjo On My Knee), while a semi-quaver or a pair of boots bounce up and down on the screen. Hot stuff it ain't.



Further adding to the aura of cheesey knock-offness are the case designs. The two *8-in-1*s we saw were encapsulated in a plain white ovoid, which looked just plain naff, and a big, red heart, which looked quite horribly naff.

Eight characterless pets for the price of one-and-a-bit. 'Naff' is the word.

8 in 1
PETS PARK

VERDICT

Name: Adam

DAILY DIARY

DAY 9	MONTH 4	AGE 1	WEIGHT 17 lb

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

Daily Schedule

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		**Notes:**	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED

Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

Daily Schedule

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY	MONTH	AGE	WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	Notes:
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED

Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

Daily Schedule

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

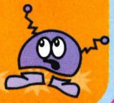
DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED



Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

Daily Schedule

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED

Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

Daily Schedule

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
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DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
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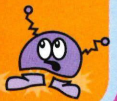
DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED



Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
Toilet/Bath		Medication			

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
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Toilet/Bath		Medication			

Daily Schedule

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WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED

Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY MONTH AGE WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	**Notes:**
Attention	Sleep (Hrs)	
Toilet/Bath	Medication	

DAILY DIARY

DAY MONTH AGE WEIGHT

Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	**Notes:**
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Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
Games	Discipline	**Notes:**
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Meals	Happiness ☐☐☐☐	Energy ☐☐☐☐
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Daily Schedule

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WEEKLY REPORT

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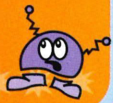

Name:

DAILY DIARY

DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness		Energy	
Games		Discipline		Notes:	
Attention		Sleep (Hrs)			
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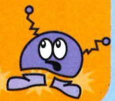

Name: ....

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DAY		MONTH		AGE		WEIGHT	

Meals		Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
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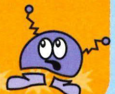

Name: ....

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals	☐	Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games	☐	Discipline	☐	Notes:	
Attention	☐	Sleep (Hrs)	☐		
Toilet/Bath	☐	Medication	☐		

DAILY DIARY

DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals	☐	Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games	☐	Discipline	☐	Notes:	
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Toilet/Bath	☐	Medication	☐		

DAILY DIARY

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Games	☐	Discipline	☐	Notes:	
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DAY ☐ MONTH ☐ AGE ☐ WEIGHT ☐

Meals	☐	Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
Games	☐	Discipline	☐	Notes:	
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Meals	☐	Happiness	☐☐☐☐	Energy	☐☐☐☐
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Games	☐	Discipline	☐	Notes:	
Attention	☐	Sleep (Hrs)	☐		
Toilet/Bath	☐	Medication	☐		

WEEKLY REPORT

OTHER WEIRD STUFF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED

Virtual Portraits

Why not draw a picture of your favourite virtual pal here? Use the squares to help if you like!

Virtual Portraits

Why not draw a picture of your favourite virtual pal here? Use the squares to help if you like!

Farewells

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

Farewells

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages

IN MEMORIAL

Name

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Died

Messages

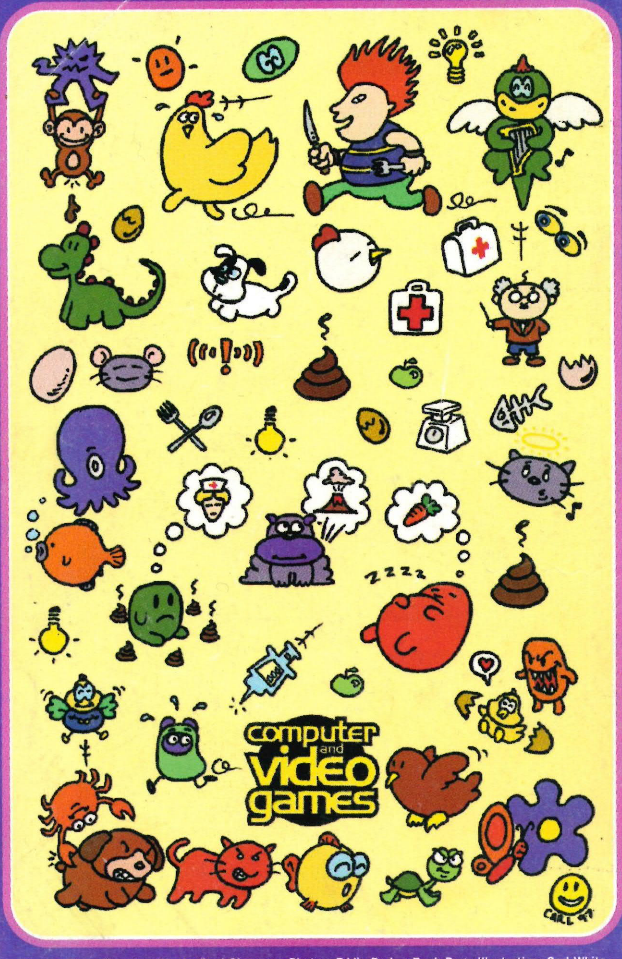
IN MEMORIAL

Name

Born

Died

Messages


computer and video games
CARL 97

Design: Jason French • Words: Paul Glancey • Photos: Eddie Park • Back Page Illustration: Carl White